REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner restricted pending Claims 24-44 into four different groups:

Group I, Claims 24-30 and 41-44, drawn to an oligomer or a polymer;

Group II, Claims 31-35, drawn to a method of forming an oligomer or a polymer;

Group III. Claims 36-40, drawn to a monomer; and

Group IV, Claims 45 and 46, draw to a field effect transistor.

The Examiner stated that there is no special technical feature that unites the groups and stated the following, among the reasons for the finding of lack of unity: Groups II-IV do not include a repeating unit of formula (I), as required in Group I; and Groups I, III and IV do not require a step of oligomerization or polymerization, as required in Group III.

Reply to Restriction Requirement

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, Claims 24-30 and 41-44, drawn to an oligomer or a polymer having a repeat unit (the first repeat unit) defined by formula (I).

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected inventions. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

Traversal of Restriction of Group I, II and IV

The Examiner stated that no special technical feature exists.

PCT Rule 13.2 defines the "special technical feature" as a technical feature that defines a contribution which the invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Applicants submit that Groups I, II and IV share a common technical feature.

Namely, the oligomer or a polymer of the elected Group II, the methods of forming an oligomer or a polymer of Group I (Groups II) and the devices comprising an oligomer or a polymer of Group I (Group IV) all share a first repeat unit and a second repeat unit that may be the same or different from the first repeat unit, the first repeat unit having formula (I):

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
Ar^{1}-E & Ar^{2}-E & Ar^{1}\\
Ar^{3} & Ar^{3} & Ar^{3}
\end{array}$$
(I).

As such, Applicants submit that since Groups I, II and IV are defined, in part, by the chemical structure of formula (I), examination of these Groups places no additional burden on the Examiner. Applicants request a rejoinder of Groups I, II and IV.

Furthermore, in order to show that the claims lack unity of invention, the Examiner needs to demonstrate that the special technical feature is not patentable in view of prior art. No such demonstration has been made. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the restriction is improper.

Additionally, Applicants note that the claims of Group I and the claims of Group II are related as claims to a product and claims to a process of making same. Applicants hereby elected the claims drawn to a product. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim should be considered for rejoinder. See M.P.E.P. §806.05.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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